



# NPDES Stormwater Discharge Permit for Construction Activities



Technical Bulletin for NCG010000

Revised Aug. 22, 2013

## What is this permit?

This is your General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activities, developed to meet federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. It is separate and in addition to your Erosion and Sedimentation Control (E&SC) Plan.

Federal regulations adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and N.C. Environmental Management Commission require an NPDES stormwater permit for your project. In North Carolina, the EPA has delegated authority to administer the NPDES program to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The E&SC plan approved by the Division of Energy, Mineral and Land (DEMLR), or a delegated local program, contains the core erosion control requirements for your project. The NPDES Stormwater General Permit contains additional requirements related to a broader range of water quality issues. **These permits are related, but separate. Both contain conditions your project site must meet.**

## Are there new requirements in this permit?

This General Permit reflects changes made in the federal regulations effective Feb. 1, 2010, that regulate discharges from construction sites. The federal regulations resulted from litigation decisions that mandated construction activities over a certain size must contain additional measures to reduce the amount of wastes and sediment loading that reach the nation's waters.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources established the Construction General Permit Technical Advisory Group to guide the development of this NPDES permit. A draft permit was available for public review in May 2011, and the final permit became effective on Aug. 3, 2011.

The most notable change in the new permit is a requirement that ground stabilization, such as wheat straw application, be applied within 14 days from the last land-disturbing activity. For steep slopes, that area must be stabilized within 7 days. Please see page 2 of this technical bulletin for more details.

## Do I need to submit a Notice of Intent to have coverage under this permit?

No. Your project is covered by this permit upon approval of an adequate erosion and sedimentation control plan that meets requirements for surface dewatering of basins and ground stabilization timeframes.

## What does this permit require me to do?

You should read and become familiar with the provisions of this permit. Below is a list of the major requirements, with indications where those differ from the previous Construction Stormwater General Permit.

### Erosion and Sediment Control Plan

You must implement the E&SC Plan approved for your project by DEMLR or by a delegated local program. Adherence to that E&SC

Plan is an enforceable component of this General Permit.

Your E&SC plan will identify areas where the more stringent 7- and 14-day ground stabilization requirements apply. See "Ground Stabilization Requirements" on page 2 of this bulletin.

### Monitoring and Inspections

- ◆ You must keep a rain gauge on the project site.
- ◆ Dedicated demolition and other waste areas and earthen material

stockpiles must be located at least 50' from storm drains or streams unless no alternative is feasible (new requirement).

◆ You must inspect all E&SC measures at least once a week and within 24 hours after any storm event greater than a half-inch (during a 24-hour period). You must take immediate corrective action for any device failure.

◆ You must inspect all outlets where stormwater runoff leaves the site and evaluate the effect on nearby streams or wetlands.

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- ◆ Corrective action must be taken if sediment is deposited off-site or into a stream or wetland, or causes a visible increase in turbidity (cloudiness) of any waterbody.
- ◆ You must keep records of these inspections and any corrective actions taken.

**Operation and Maintenance**

You must provide the operation and maintenance necessary to maintain optimal performance of stormwater controls. This means you must take corrective action if erosion and sediment control measures are not operating properly. Operation and maintenance includes, but is not limited to:

- ◆ Regularly cleaning out sedimentation basins.
- ◆ Stabilizing eroded banks,

- channels or spillway structures.
- ◆ Repairing/clearing out inlets and outlets.
- ◆ Repairing and maintaining storm drainage inlet and outlet protection.
- ◆ Repairing piping, seepage and mechanical damage.
- ◆ Repairing silt fence damage.

**Reporting**

The self-inspections required by this permit are an opportunity to identify impacts to nearby waters. **If you observe sediment that has deposited in a stream or wetland, you must notify the DEMLR regional office within 24 hours and provide written notice within five days** (see #3 on page 6 of the General Permit).

**Non-compliance and Fines**

Projects that violate Stormwater Permit conditions and/or have unauthorized water quality impacts are subject to fines. Civil penalties of up to \$25,000 per day for each violation may be assessed.

**Inspections**

Staff from DEMLR and local programs with delegated authority will perform random inspections of your project site to ensure compliance with state and federal regulation governing construction activities. That means that your project, if found to be in violation, could potentially be subject to enforcement action by both DEMLR and the local program. The inspections may be routine in nature or the result of a citizen complaint.

**Ground Stabilization Requirements**

Site Area Description	Stabilization	Timeframe Exceptions
 Perimeter dikes, swales, ditches and slopes	7 days	None
 High Quality Water (HQW) Zones	7 days	None
 Slopes steeper than 3:1	7 days	If slopes are 10' or less in length and are not steeper than 2:1, 14 days are allowed.
 Slopes 3:1 or flatter	14 days	7 days for slopes greater than 50' in length.
 All other areas with slopes flatter than 4:1	14 days	None, except for perimeters and HQW Zones.

**Additional information is available online:**



- NC Stormwater Permitting <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/lr/stormwater>
- NCG01 Permit Information <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/lr/construction-stormwater>
- Map of Regional Offices <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/lr/division-contacts>

**Still have questions? Call the DEMLR Regional Office nearest your project's location:**

Asheville Office	(828) 296-4500	Washington Office	(252) 946-6481
Fayetteville Office	(910) 433-3300	Wilmington Office	(910) 796-7215
Mooreville Office	(704) 663-1699	Winston-Salem Office	(336) 771-5000
Raleigh Office	(919) 791-4200	Central Office	(919) 807-6300